

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION NEA-09

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ACDA-10 IO-10 EB-07 AID-05 /098 W

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R 130740Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9164

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2171

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, AF, IN

SUBJ: GOP REJECTS WAHEED ABDULLAH'S PRECONDITION

FOR PAK-AFGHAN TALKS

1. MARCH 12 A MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN REPLIED TO STATEMENTS REPORTEDLY MADE IN NEW DELHI BY VISITING AFGHAN LEADERS AND INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO PAKISTAN TIMES MARCH 13 ACCOUNT, MFA SPOKESMAN REJECTED AS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH'S DEMAND THAT GOP REMOVE BAN ON NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) BEFORE TALKS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD PROCEED. MFA SPOKESMAN SAID GOP HAD INDICATED ITS READINESS FOR TALKS BETWEEN FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI AND ABDULLAH WHICH WOULD PREPARE GROUND FOR MEETING BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED AFGHANS SET NO PRECONDITIONS. AFGHAN DEMAND THAT BAN ON NAP BE REMOVED AMOUNTED TO INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID. ACTION TO BAN NAP WAS UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUDICIAL PROCESS AND IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW OF SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN. BY CONTRAST, HE CHARGED THAT AFGHANISTAN CONTINUED TO REMAIN UNDER "DESPOTIC PERSONAL RULE" AND AFGHAN PEOPLE

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WERE "DENIED THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS."

2. SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT AFGHANS HAD DELIBERATELY VIOLATED PRINCIPLE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES BY DISCLOSING PROPOSED TALKS BETWEEN SHAHI AND ABDULLAH TO INDIAN PRESS. (TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRESS REPORTS IN ISLAMABAD OF TALKS INITIALLY SLATED FOR FEBRUARY 15.)

3. PAKISTAN IS READY TO SETTLE ITS DIFFERENCES WITH AFGHANISTAN UNDER PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED BY PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE OF OCTOBER 1974, MFA SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID. DIFFERENCES WOULD BE SETTLED ON BASIS OF "PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE." HOWEVER, HE WENT ON, AFGHAN ATTITUDE NEGATES ONE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, NAMELY THAT EACH COUNTRY MUST REFRAIN FROM INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER. AS LONG AS AFGHANS CONTINUE TO REJECT THESE PRINCIPLES, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENT PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS. THUS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERIORATION IN THESE RELATIONS RESTS FIRMLY WITH AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID.

4. SPOKESMAN AVAILED HIMSELF OF OPPORTUNITY TO REJECT SIMULTANEOUS CRITICISM BY AFGHANS AND INDIANS OF AMERICA'S LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO. THIS "ORCHESTRATED" CRITICISM HE CHARACTERIZED AS "ILLOGICAL" BECAUSE THE ARMS POLICY FAVORED INDIA ALSO. FURTHER, WHILE SOPHISTICATED ARMS "WERE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE" IN PAKISTAN, THESE TWO COUNTRIES ACCUMULATED THEM FROM "ASSURED SOURCES." HE CLAIMED THAT "PAKISTAN HAD REMAINED DEPRIVED OF ITS BASIC DEFENSE NEEDS ON ACCOUNT OF THE ONE-SIDED IMPACT OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO" AND CLAIMED GOA-GOI ACCUSATIONS THAT NEW POLICY WILL RESULT IN "IMBALANCE" AND "ARMS RACE" ARE ABSURD.
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